

Year 11 English Transition Projects

Below are a set of projects to prepare you for your transition to college. During the next few weeks, we all need to be mindful of our mental health and well-being – we are social beings! - Social distancing is very challenging.

Each project is designed to increase your awareness of mental health and its impact during your transition to college, through materials based in the world of English Language and Literature.

1. Poetry

“But nothing happens” is an anaphora in Wilfred Owen’s *Exposure*. He and his fellow soldiers struggled with the monotony of inaction in the trenches in WW1. Write a poem 1-2 sides of A4 paper titled “But nothing happens”. Use a range of poetic techniques you have studied to capture how you, the typical Year 11, feels on a daily basis in isolation, where “nothing happens”.

A copy of the original poem is found here for inspiration:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/57261/exposure-56d23a961ef5a>

2. Opinion piece

“Stay home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives.” This slogan is now embedded in UK society, as the whole population waits for the return to normality. Imagine you are the Prime Minister. You have a speech to make on Thursday, May 7 2020; the lockdown extension date deadline. What are you going to do? Maintain the lockdown or open the UK for business? Several countries in Europe have eased restrictions already. The World Health Organisation has advised against this. You are to write a 1-2 sides of A4 speech, where you outline your decision about the lockdown and your reasons for this. You must write a structured viewpoint using Ethos, Pathos and Logos. Definitions of these are here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gf81d0YS58E>

3. Dickens

In the text, *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens highlights the plight of the poor in Victorian London vs the miserly wealth of Scrooge. Poor and vulnerable people are struggling during this time period due to lack of work, lack of access to food and lack of social interaction. Design a charity and a range of campaign materials using 3 different types

of media (i.e. powerpoint is one) to convince wealthy business people to donate to your charity.

An example of charity media is found here: <https://england.shelter.org.uk/donate>

4. Shakespeare

"To be thus is nothing; but to be safely thus" is the opening to Macbeth's soliloquy in Act 3 S1 of *Macbeth*. This highlights how Macbeth's mental health has deteriorated to the point where he is paranoid, numb, and cannot think clearly. Write a short diary entry explaining how you or a typical Year 11 feels about the Summer of 2020. Include: lack of leaving school, Year 11 prom, no exams etc.

The original soliloquy with translation is here:

https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/shakespeare/macbeth/page_88/

5. Spoken Language

Record a short 3-5 minute inspirational speech titled "I'll see you all on the other side" Explain, in your own words: 1) What you are looking forward to doing when this pandemic is over; 2) Anything you are going to change about how you live your life; 3) What your hopes for the future are.

An example speech is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aPntFAyRts>